

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /127 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 635

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: EMERGENCY MEASURES: CHRISTIAN REACTION

REF: SEOUL 496

1. AMERICAN MISSIONARY SOURCES INFORMED EMBOFF THAT ROK/CIA CONTINUES TO PRESSURE KOREAN CHURCH LEADERS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN CHRISTIAN PROTEST MOVEMENT BY REQUESNT AND EXTENSIVE INTERROGATIONS. THEY SPECIFICALLY NAMED REVERENDS STEPHEN MOON, KIM CHAI-CHOON, PAE MYUNG-JUN, KIM YUN-SIK-- GENERAL SECRETARY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AND KO HAN-KYU, EDITOR OF NCCC NEWSLETTER. MISSIONARY SOURCES REPORT KO WAS BEATEN FOR ARTICLE APPROVED BEFORE JAN 8 EMERGENCY MEASURES BUT ACTUALLY PUBLISHED LATER. HE IS REPORTEDLY HOSPITALIZED. FOUR FOREIGN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND A GERMAN NUN HAVE ALSO BEEN QUESTIONED. IN CONNECTION WITH PRE-JAN 8 PROTESTS.

2. ACCORDING TO MISSIONARY SOURCES NCCC HAS NOT YET MET TO DEAL WITH JAN 17 ARREST OF EIGHT PASTORS AND EVANGELISTS DUE TO ROKG INTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE, BUT LEADERS DISCREETLY CONTINUE TO SEE EACH OTHER SINGLY AND TALK
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ABOUT FUTURE, THOUGH EVIDENTLY WITHOUT SPECIFIC PLANS.

3. AMERICAN METHODIST SOURCE DESCRIBES PRESENT STATE OF CHRISTIAN ANTI-GOVERNMENT MOVEMENT AS AMORPHOUS, WITHOUT FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OR DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, UNITED ONLY IN DETERMINATION TO OPPOSE GOVT, WHILE KEY LEADERS BIDE TIME AND REMAIN SILENT. GEORGE PAIK, PRESIDENT EMERITUS YONSEI UNIVERSITY, SAID TO BE AMONG THOSE PRESSING FOR ACTION. SEVERAL AMERICAN MISSIONARIES APPEAR TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MOVEMENT. BUT ARE BEING CAUTIONED ABOUT DANGERS BY THEIR CHURCHES.

4. REV KIM-SUK, GENERAL SECRETARY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND REV KIM CHONG-CHUN, PRESIDENT OF HAHGOOK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LEFT FOR JAPAN JAN 21 AND 22 RESPECTIVELY TO ATTEND NORTHEAST ASIAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEET. ACCORDING MISSIONARY SOURCE, BOTH WERE STOPPED AT AIRPORT AND THEIR DEPARTURE DELAYED BY ONE DAY, BEFORE ROK/CIA CLEARED AND FINALLY URGED THEM TO GO TO AVOID IMPRESSION ABROAD THAT THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED. ERICSON

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